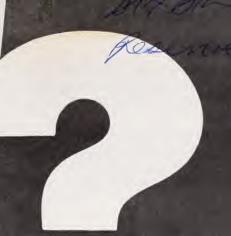
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what are the



United States Department of Agriculture

- There are State FOOD & AGRICULTURE COUNCILS (FACs) in every State, and there is a local FAC in almost all counties.
- The State FACs are composed of leaders of U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies in the States; the local FACs are composed of USDA agency leaders in the counties.
- The FACs coordinate USDA activities in States and counties to help make USDA programs more efficient and more responsive to local people and local conditions.
- The FACs work with State and local officials, community organizations, State departments of agriculture, other State agencies, and with other Federal agencies on food and agriculture matters.
- The FACs are open to ideas, suggestions, or concerns from any citizen or group.
- The FACs help the Secretary of Agriculture and State Governors keep informed about the concerns of local people for the purpose of improving USDA programs.
- The FACs are committed to advancing the special goals of the Department of Agriculture, such as:
 - Being prepared to assist in food and agriculture emergencies.
 - Ensuring that all farm and ranch operators are aware of USDA programs and how they work.
 - Informing more Americans about the nature of U.S. agriculture and its contribution to the health and fitness of people.

- Fostering and assisting rural development to ensure quality in rural life and strength in the rural economy.
- Advancing sound natural resource conservation and use through coordinated action with the private sector, agencies of government, and other organizations.

Contact any local or State office of these USDA agencies for more information.

Forest Service
Extension Service
Soil Conservation Service
Food and Nutrition Service
Economic Research Service
Statistical Reporting Service
Farmers Home Administration
Rural Electrification Administration
Food Safety and Inspection Service
Federal Crop Insurance Corporation
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

All programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture are available to everyone regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.

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